

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) A label device comprising:

a housing for accommodating at least a roll of label stock;

a dispenser mechanism for dispensing the roll of label stock, the label stock being transparent and having a selected side for adhering to a piece;

an interface for communicating data concerning an amount of a payment to an accounting unit external to the label device to reduce a fund stored in the accounting unit by a second amount, the second amount being a function of the amount of the payment;

a processor for generating signals representative of at least an image of a indicium indicative of the payment; and

a printing mechanism responsive to the signals for printing at least the image of the indicium on the selected side of the roll of label stock.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the second amount being the same as the amount of the payment.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a weighing apparatus, wherein the housing also accommodates the weighing apparatus.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the roll of label stock is in a continuous tape form.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the roll of label stock is self-adhesive.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the roll of label stock is dispensed at a selected length.

7. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the selected length is a function of the size of a piece onto which the printed image of the indicium is applied.

8. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein at least one selected image other than the image of the indicium is printed on the roll of label stock, the selected length being a function of the size of the selected image.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8 wherein the selected image contains address information.

10. (Previously Cancelled)

11. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the image of the indicium contains a plurality of elements, at least two of the elements having different colors.

12. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the label stock comprises material which disintegrates under stress.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the material includes at least one perforation.

14. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the label stock comprises material which deforms under stress.

15-28. (Previously Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for generating an indicium indicative of a payment, the apparatus comprising:

a print head assembly responsive to at least one signal for printing the indiciu generated by the apparatus to indicate a payment; and

a sensor for detecting an intrusion on a connection transporting the signal to the print head assembly, at least part of the sensor and the connection being encapsulated in potting material, wherein operation of said print head is terminated when an intrusion is detected.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the sensor includes a carrier for transporting a second signal, the carrier being arranged in proximity to the connection.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the second signal is an electrical signal and the carrier includes a conductor.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the second signal is an optical signal and the carrier includes an optical fiber.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the potting material includes epoxy.

34. (Original) Apparatus for generating a postage indicium, the apparatus comprising:

- a dispenser mechanism for providing a medium, fluorescent marking being printed on the medium; and

- a printing mechanism for printing the postage indicium on the medium, the printed postage indicium being non-fluorescent.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the medium comprises label stock.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the printing mechanism prints both of the fluorescent marking and the postage indicium on the medium.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is printed before the postage indicium.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form of a stripe.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form of a barcode representative of information.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the printed postage indicium is positioned on the medium according to a position of the fluorescent marking.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is invisible.

42. (Original) Apparatus for providing a postage indicium indicative of a payment of postage, the apparatus comprising:

a processor for generating the postage indicium, which includes a first machine readable portion and a second machine readable portion, the first machine readable portion being separate from the second machine readable portion, the first machine readable portion representing postal data, the second machine readable portion representing second data for recovering at least part of the postal data when the first machine readable portion is corrupted; and

a mechanism for setting the postage indicium on a medium.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second data includes the at least part of the postal data.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second data includes a code for correcting at least one error in the postal data.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second data includes a code for detecting at least one error in the postal data.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the first machine readable portion includes a barcode.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the barcode is a two-dimensional barcode.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second machine readable portion includes a barcode.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the barcode is a one-dimensional barcode.

50. (Original) Apparatus for dispensing label stock, the apparatus comprising:

a mechanism for setting an address on a first part of the label stock and a postage indicium on a second part of the label stock, the postage indicium being indicative of a payment of postage, the first part and the second part being applied onto a mailpiece, wherein said postage indicium is a 2-dimensional bar code; and

a processor for generating at least one indication for associating the first part with the second part, the indication being set on at least one of the first and second parts.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the indication is human readable.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the indication is set onto the second part, and the indication contains information concerning at least part of the address.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the information concerns a zip code in the address.

54. (Previously Presented) A method for use in a label device having a housing for accommodating at least a roll of label stock, the label stock being transparent and having a selected side for adhering to a piece, the method comprising:

communicating data concerning an amount of a payment to an accounting unit external to the label device to reduce a fund stored in the accounting unit by a second amount, the second amount being a function of the amount of the payment;

generating signals representative of at least an image of a postage indicium indicative of the payment;

dispensing the roll of label stock; and

printing at least the image of the indicium on the selected side of the roll of label stock in response to the signals.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the second amount being the same as the amount of the payment.

56. (Original) The method of claim 54 further comprising determining a weight of a mailpiece onto which the printed image of the postage indicium is applied.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56 further comprising determining the amount of the payment of postage based on at least the weight of the mail piece.

58. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the roll of label stock is dispensed at a selected length.

59. (Original) The method of claim 58 wherein the selected length is a function of the size of a mailpiece onto which the printed image of the indicium is applied.

60. (Original) The method of claim 58 wherein at least one selected image other than the image of the indicium is printed on the roll of label stock, the selected length being a function of the size of the selected image.

61. (Original) The method of claim 60 wherein the image other than the image of the indicium contains address information.

62. (Previously Cancelled)

63. (Original) The method of claim 54 wherein the image of the indicium contains a plurality of elements, at least two of the elements having different colors.

64-75. (Previously Cancelled)

76. (Currently Amended) A method for use in an apparatus including a print head assembly responsive to at least one signal for printing a postage indicium indicative of a payment of postage, the method comprising:

disposing a sensor in proximity to a connection transporting the signal to the print head assembly to print a postage indicium indicative of the payment of postage;

encapsulating at least part of the sensor and the connection using potting material;

detecting any intrusion on the connection using the sensor; and

terminating operation of the printer head when an intrusion is detected.

77. (Original) A method for use in an apparatus for generating a postage indicium, the method comprising:

providing a medium, fluorescent marking being printed on the medium; and

printing the postage indicium on the medium, the printed postage indicium being non-fluorescent.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is printed along with the postage indicium.

79. (Original) The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is printed before the postage indicium.

80. (Original) The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form of a stripe.

81. (Original) The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form of a barcode representative of information.

82. (Original) The method of claim 77 further comprising positioning the printed postage indicium on the medium according to a position of the fluorescent marking.

83. (Original) The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is invisible.

84. (Original) A method for providing a postage indicium indicative of a payment of postage, the method comprising:

generating the postage indicium, which includes a first machine readable portion and a second machine readable portion, the first machine readable portion being separate from the second machine readable portion, the first machine readable portion representing postal data, the second machine readable portion representing second data for recovering at least part of the postal data when the first machine readable portion is corrupted; and

setting the postage indicium on a medium.

85. (Original) The method of claim 84 wherein the second data includes the at least part of the postal data.

86. (Original) The method of claim 84 wherein the second data includes a code for correcting at least one error in the postal data.

87. (Original) The method of claim 84 wherein the second data includes a code for detecting at least one error in the postal data.

88. (Original) The method of claim 84 wherein the first machine readable portion includes a barcode.

89. (Original) The method of claim 88 wherein the barcode is a two-dimensional barcode.

90. (Original) The method of claim 84 wherein the second machine readable portion includes a barcode.

91. (Original) The method of claim 90 wherein the barcode is a one-dimensional barcode.

92. (Original) A method for use in an apparatus for dispensing label stock, the method comprising:

setting an address on a first part of the label stock and a postage indicium on a second part of the label stock, the postage indicium being indicative of a payment of postage, the first part and the second part being applied onto a

mailpiece, wherein said postage indicium is a 2-dimensional bar code; and

generating at least one indication for associating the first part with the second part; and

setting the indication on at least one of the first and second parts.

93. (Original) The method of claim 92 wherein the indication is human readable.

94. (Original) The method of claim 92 wherein the indication is set on the second part, and the indication contains information concerning at least part of the address.

95. (Original) The method of claim 94 wherein the information concerns a zip code in the address.

96. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said image of indicium is a postal image.

97. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said image of indicium is a lottery ticket image.

98. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said image of indicium is a theater ticket image.

99. (Cancelled)

100. (Cancelled)

101. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said image of indicium is a postal image.

102. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said image of indicium is a lottery ticket image.

103. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said image of indicium is a theater ticket image.

104. (Original) The method of claim 57 wherein said image of indicium is a postal image.

105. (Original) The method of claim 57 wherein said image of indicium is a lottery ticket image.

106. (Original) The method of claim 57 wherein said image of indicium is a theater ticket image.

107. (Cancelled)

108. (Cancelled)